

COMING.—An "Artist's Almanac" for 1850, edited by an artist, which is to combine with an almanac a hand-book for artists and amateurs.—"Eight Views of the Church of St. Mary, at Stafford, in its present Restored State," from drawings taken by the late Mr. Masfen, Junr. The drawings were made by Mr. Masfen, with the desire of assisting in the decoration of the church, by appropriating the proceeds to the purchase of a painted window for the edifice. It pleased God to remove him before his work was complete, but his friends mean to carry out his intention by subscription.—"It is proposed to issue a series of "Health Tracts," in aid of the sanitary movement, by the Tower Hamlets Association, and they are inviting parties to submit such to them for publication.

FIRE ESCAPES.—After reading the letter in your journal, signed "P. W. H.," written with a very benevolent object to encourage the direction of the attention of mechanicians and engineers to the invention of fire-escapes,—the figure of a spiral or cylindrical spring was presented to my imagination, and it struck me, upon reflection, that from the compressibility of such a power into a small compass, it might possibly form the best principle for a contrivance of the nature required, whether used by suspension from a window, or from without, in the manner of the toy called "the jack-in-a-box," if sufficient elasticity for the required weight can be obtained, to allow of its rising from its platform, on the ground, when relieved from pressure, to the ordinary height of our third-floor windows. Two other principles have since occurred to me as applicable to the same object: one, applicable to a window, or from the ground, consisting of a number of metallic tubes, partially elastic across their diameters, and contained one within another, like a portable fishing-rod; the other, to be used from a platform on the ground, and to be formed on the principle of the "larybones," or multiplied scissors. These three inventions, or, more properly speaking, conceptions, placed on a platform, would occupy small comparative space, and be drawn by a horse, when placed upon wheels, with much greater facility than the long fire-escape ladders. The platform might move upon axles, so as to be inclined right or left to any window, when the machine was raised.—JOHN PERCEVAL, Kensington.

MODEL DWELLINGS FOR LABOURERS IN FRANCE.—*La Presse* publishes "a novel list of shareholders," containing the names of upwards of 1,100 persons of every rank and condition of life, who have taken shares of 25 to 1,000 francs each in a society called "La Société des Cités Ouvrières," which has for its object to build improved lodging-houses for the poor, not only in Paris, but apparently in every large city of the republic. The capital of this society is to be six millions of francs, or 240,000*l.* sterling. It is under the patronage of the president, who is said to have contributed largely to it, and to take a lively interest in its success. The scheme is clearly based on that of our own model dwellings, but comprises also arrangements for work-rooms, and for the care of young children; a plan of providing furniture, to become the tenant's on purchase by small weekly instalments; the arrangement of a hall, or meeting-room, whereby coals and candles are saved to the tenant; and a register of working men and servants. One of the lodging-houses is already in course of erection in the second arrondissement. The rents are to be exceedingly low.

THE BRITTON CLUB recommenced their social meetings on the 20th, when Mr. Cubitt was host, and Mr. Britton, Mr. Tooke, F.R.S., Mr. Humphrey, Q.C., Mr. Grissell, Mr. W. Cubitt, M.P., Mr. C. Hill, Mr. Cunningham, Mr. Jerdan, Mr. Gibbons, Dr. Conolly, and others, were present. The Autobiography in preparation for the subscribers to the Testimonial is more than half in type.

PROPOSED ARCHITECTURAL LENDING LIBRARY.—The intention of establishing an architectural lending library in London, advertised for some time in our pages, and which seemed to promise advantage to students, has been abandoned; the number of persons who signified their intention to subscribe being too insignificant to justify the proprietor in making the necessary arrangements.

ELECTRO-TELEGRAPHIC PROGRESS.—A list has been published, embracing all the principal towns in England and Scotland, and to all of which telegraphic communication is said now to extend from the two central stations at Louthbury and St. Martin's-le-Grand, the office, Strand, or the branches at Euston-square, Shoreditch, Waterloo-bridge, and Paddington.—The company have caused a criminal information to be issued against Messrs. Willmer and Smith, the Liverpool correspondents of the *Morning Herald*, and, if we mistake not, the promoters of a competitive electro-telegraphic company, for a libel published in the *Morning Herald* of 11th October last.—The celebrated American telegraph case of Morse v. O'Reilly has just been decided by the Supreme Court of the United States, in favour of Mr. Morse. A correspondent of a contemporary says—"Mr. Bain's projects will also be endangered by a suit brought against him by Mr. Morse, as well as the originality of his invention for making marks by the action of the electric fluid on paper prepared with a chemical solution. The ground is, therefore, narrowed down here to Morse and House, and these will, probably, share the public favour equally. Both in Morse's and House's system, the action of the recording instruments is simple and unmistakable. The other day, some of our telegraphic operators amused themselves by beating the time of various tunes at the distance apart of several hundred miles, and they did it with such accuracy that they were perfectly intelligible, even to the bystanders. In a very short time we shall have a continuous line from New York to Halifax, and as long as the Cunard steamers stop there it will be of great advantage to the newspaper press on both sides of the water. The telegraph has now become a most important agent of communication in this country, and large amounts of business are transacted by its means. I think the time is very near at hand when the American systems will supersede all the others now in use."—The telegraph between Berlin and Stettin has been laid in gutta percha tubing, which it appears is no more able to withstand the inroads of those little land sharks—the mice, than we thought it possible that it might be to withstand the action of the ocean tribes in submarine telegraphs; for we find it reported that on a recent occasion, "the communication having been found to be interrupted, search was made for the cause, when a mouse's nest, with a little brood, was discovered in the gutta percha tube, which it appeared that the little animal had contrived to gnaw through, and so disturb the wires."

THE 1851 EXPOSITION.—The gentlemen who are managing this matter must be careful, or they will raise a feeling against the project which, notwithstanding the excellence of the idea itself, and the machinery which has been cleverly put into motion, will yet wreck it. It is the subject of considerable dissatisfaction, very generally expressed, that appointments at large salaries are being made, and that the contract for the erection of the temporary building is actually entered into with a builder, without the concurrence or knowledge of the public, or a recognition of their right to be represented in the matter. Our caution is meant as a friendly one, and we hope it will be taken in time.

THE WESTERN LITERARY INSTITUTION, LEICESTER-SQUARE.—The glee concerts here have been very successful, and, better still, very creditable to the parties engaged.

A HINT TO THE FREEMASONS OF THE WEST OF ENGLAND.—At the dinner of the Colston Society, in Bristol,* the week before last, Mr. W. Proctor, with reference to the restoration of St. Mary Redcliffe Church, urged by Mr. W. D. Bushell, then present, who had headed the Freemasons on the day the first stone of the new works was laid,—said he had heard there was a disposition on the part of the craft to connect themselves with the restoration, and he suggested that they should set a-foot a subscription and undertake some special portion of the fabric. This would indeed be a return on the part of the craft to the good ways of their mediæval predecessors.

* Mr. William Powell was president. This society has assembled for more than 100 years, never missing, excepting in 1831, the year of the Bristol riots. Its object, twice blessed, is charity.

St. Peter's Church, BELMONT.—A church and school situated at the village of Belmont, in the parish and about 5 miles from the town of Bolton-le-Moors, have just now been completed under the direction of Mr. J. E. Gregan, architect. Both were erected from a sum of money left for the purpose by the late Thomas Wright, Esq., of Belmont, and the land for the sites of both buildings has been given by the present possessor of the property. The church consists of chancel, nave, and aisles, western tower and spire, and south porch, with a vestry on the south side of the chancel, and an organ aisle on the north. The style is Early English; the roofs are all open, and there are no galleries whatever. The seats are low, of red deal, and afford accommodation for 500 worshippers. The chancel was originally designed to be of greater length, but for various reasons was curtailed. The church has all the advantages of a beautiful, although somewhat exposed situation, and is a conspicuous object in the valley. The contract for church and schools, with their fence, walls, &c., amounted to 3,650*l.* The church will shortly be consecrated by the Bishop of Manchester.

NEW PANORAMA OF THE NILE.—The Panorama of the Nile, painted by Messrs. Bonomi, Warren, and Fahey, mentioned by us some time ago, is now being exhibited in New York, and a fresh one has been painted by these gentlemen for London, and is now open to the public in the Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly. The artists have flattered us so far as to adopt both the suggestions we threw out in our notices of the first. It is not now a transparency, as the first was, but is lighted from the front, and they have in one place left the river to give a nearer view of one of the larger buildings, the great temple of Karnak, the result of which is the most effective and striking tableaux in the whole series. We strongly advise our readers to visit this most instructive as well as beautiful panorama.

THE KENTISH TOWN LITERARY INSTITUTION is making satisfactory progress, and its projectors already begin to look forward to the possibility of erecting a building specially for its wants. A concert was given on Wednesday by the choral class, which ambitiously comprised Haydn's "Creation!"

THE HALL OF COMMERCE, Threadneedle-street, was knocked down at auction the other day for 44,900*l.* The site alone (9,000 feet) is said to have cost 35,000*l.*

THE CHESTER AND HOLYHEAD RAILWAY.—There is a strong impression that this railway must be shut up in consequence of its not paying. This line has certainly been most unfortunate, and most unfairly dealt with;—unfortunate in the extravagant cost of the Conway and Britannia bridges, which is several times above the estimate;—unfortunate in the unlucky position of Ireland, the trade of which has been destroyed by the free-trade principles,—unfairly dealt with by the Government withholding the 30,000*l.* for carrying the mails, merely because the Britannia-bridge is not complete, and further unfortunate, by a branch of that very Government (the Admiralty) running their boats against them.—*Herepath's Journal.*

TENDERS

For restoring a portion of the damage done by fire at the Model Establishment, Goulston-square, for the Committee for Promoting the Establishment of Baths and Washhouses for the Labouring Classes:—

Haward and Nixon	£598
Piper	820
Rigby	510
Sanders and Woolcott	482

For erecting a first-rate dwelling-house, for Mr. Dear, at St. George's-place, Hyde-park-corner; Mr. F. R. Beeston, architect:—

Waller	£4,720
Wilson	4,300
Souter and Symons	4,180
Pollock and McLellan	4,078
Wilkinson	3,960
Burton	3,920
Sanders and Woolcott	3,824
Barr	3,740
Glen	3,464
H. W. Cooper	3,079

MEETINGS OF SCIENTIFIC BODIES

Held during the ensuing week:

MONDAY, Dec. 2.—Institute of Architects, 8 p.m.
TUESDAY, Dec. 3.—Institution of Civil Engineers, 8 p.m.
WEDNESDAY, Dec. 3.—Society of Arts, 8 p.m.
THURSDAY, Dec. 4.—Royal Society, 8½ p.m.; Society of Antiquaries, 8 p.m.